

Supervisor & Patrol FAQs

1. What is a PredPol box?

PredPol assigns probabilities to locations where crime is most likely to occur and designated the highest probability locations with distinctive red box. When you 'Get in the Box' you know you have entered a high-probability crime area.

2. Why doesn't the PredPol box tell me what type of crime is likely to occur there?

PredPol predictions can put you in the right place at the right time, but they are not a replacement for your knowledge, skills and experience. You are most effective when you are using your problem solving abilities to deal with the causes of crime in each local situation.

3. Why are PredPol boxes so small?

PredPol boxes are the right size to capture the locations that are at greatest risk of crime. Sometimes it's just one or two houses that are at risk, or a few parking spaces. Why include a whole neighborhood or whole street block when PredPol can make it much more precise for you?

4. If PredPol is a way of 'policing the probabilities' isn't this just the same thing as taking a gamble or playing a hunch?

PredPol is not a guess or a hunch. Predictions are based on your hard data about where and when crimes have occurred. PredPol uses mathematical models to tell you where the most likely locations for crime to occur today.

5. How do I get my patrol officers motivated to 'Get in the Box'?

Nobody knows your team better than you do, but there are some ways in which one can motivate PredPol missions:

- Encourage practical activities in the box such as collecting Field Interviews, running license plates, doing warrant checks, collecting street-level intelligence.
- PredPol is not arrest driven, but if you do get arrests 'in the box' let the officers 'tell their story' and encourage them to spread the word.



6. Should all of our policing activities occur only 'in the box'?

Each PredPol box represents a location with a high probability of crime. However, problem solving both 'in the box' and the surrounding area are expected to have an impact.

You can think of a PredPol box as an anchor-point for crime prevention activities.

7. Does PredPol replace officer judgment & experience?

Absolutely not! Officer judgment is critical to problem solving 'in the box'. PredPol will help the new officer to more quickly understand the nature of crime risk in their environment. It will help the veteran look at their policing environment in a new way. And, since PredPol predictions may change from day to day, getting 'in the box' may help officers avoid falling into routine patrol patterns.

8. Is PredPol probable cause?

PredPol is not probable cause. It is a precision way of defining 'high crime areas' based on your crime data. High crime areas may grounds for further investigation, but additional objective evidence always must accompany reasonable suspicion and probable cause.